

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2012

The regular meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Root at 9:02 am.

**Members Present:** John Morrissey, Jim Lomis, Cheri Richter, Craig Root, Gary Straight, and Charlie Smith

**Members not Present:** Terry Landreth

**Guest in attendance:** Chris Daniel; Executive Director of Camden County Chamber of Commerce, and Angela Wigger; Director of St. Marys Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)

**Staff:** Artie Jones, III; Director, Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the May 7, 2012 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Smith and a second by Straight. All were in favor of the motion.

**Treasurers Report:** Smith presented the city financial report and the DDA statements. Smith made a motion to approve the financials and the motion was second by Straight. All were in favor.

**Additions to the Agenda:** AJ added Georgia Department of Labor after the Work Plans item and Morrissey added Digest Information.

**Digest Information:** Morrissey discussed the preliminary figures that St. Marys recently received of a drop of 8 percent. The question was raised if the land that was deeded to the DDA should be reassessed to adjust the figures on the DDA balance sheet.

Lomis entered the meeting.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Film Alliance:** Angela reported that the producer and director for the movie Eye of the Hurricane were both in attendance at the three screenings recently. The film will most likely be released at the start of this year's hurricane season. Angela also reported that the episodes of Royal Pains that were filmed in St. Marys will air on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 9pm on the USA Network.

**Tourism:** Angela reported on the upcoming events in St. Marys which include: June 9<sup>th</sup> events of Fun in the Sun, National Trails Day, (GA Coastal Paddle Trail designation), including kayak demonstrations with 1 hour river clean up. Starry Nights will also be on June 9<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm. The Peace Garden will be designated on July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Angela presented information on the Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail. Angela noted that the recent Art and Music Stroll was also a success.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG):** Morrissey reported that he spoke with Peggy Jolley of Georgia Power regarding funding for marketing professionals to do a Request for Qualification (RFQ) for the property. This would provide a broader reach of potential developers. Peggy will research/investigate options and respond back to Morrissey. The board recommended having Peggy review the current format of the RFQ and determine if it should be revised in any way. AJ reported that at the last SMIG meeting the marketing subcommittee proposed hosting a Charlton/Camden Board of Realtors meeting on the site and inviting hotel developers as well to view the property. The SMIG committee determined that there was no funding to host this type of event. The Board of Realtors have revised their June meeting to be held at the host lunch location for the month with AJ making a presentation on the information of the SMIG property and after lunch the group will convene at the SMIG property to walk the property. The group will convene on the property on June 21<sup>st</sup> at approximately 1 pm. The DDA board members are invited to attend.

**Mission Statement Adoption:** the board reviewed the mission statement and motion to have the mission statement read as: “Provide support for existing businesses and build public private investment partnerships that foster economic, cultural and social growth in the City of St. Marys” was made by Richter and second by Straight. All were in favor.

**St. Marys Community Market:** AJ reported on his discussion with Angela regarding the CVB overseeing the market because of their proximity in location and their business hours on market days. After discussion motion was made to allow the CVB to take over the market by Richter and second by Straight. All were in favor.

**DDA Work Plans:** The board reviewed the three versions of the plans received from the facilitator, and three board members. After discussion and implemented changes, the document was adopted with a motion by Root and second by Richter. Renée will make the changes and email the completed document to the board and Peggy Jolley.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Businesses and Updates:** AJ reported the newest businesses in St. Marys: Miss Wendy’s Wonderful World of Books, DW Choreography, and Crosby Nissan. AJ also reported that the St. Marys Antique Mall is under contract.

AJ presented a brief overview of the Retail Lease Track (RLT) database website and its uses. This program will aid in contacting prospective businesses for the area.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary

Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant